REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the detailed Office Action dated September 27, 2007, the Applicant offers the following submissions and amendments.

Amendments

Independent claims 1, 19 and 38 have been amended to define that the heater element is formed in a plane that is less than 5 microns from the nozzle aperture. This feature is disclosed at page 21, line 2.

Accordingly the amendments do not add new matter.

Claims – 35USC§103

Claims 1, 19 and 38 *inter alia* stand rejected as obvious in light of JP publication 09-048121 to Fujiyama et al. in view of JP publication 62-094347 to Manaka and US 6,213,587 to Whitman.

Independent claims 1, 19 and 38 have been amended to define that the heater element is suspended in a plane that is less than 5 microns from the nozzle aperture. As discussed at page 16, lines 7 to 16, the spacing between the heater element and the nozzle aperture has a significant bearing on the energy required for droplet ejection. A close nozzle to heater spacing reduces the droplet ejection energy because the mass of ink being moved by the bubble is less. The cited references do not disclose this feature and in particular, Whitman teaches a heater to nozzle aperture spacing of at least 8 microns (see col. 8, lines 9 to 14).

In light of the above, we submit that the cited references do not render the claimed combination of features obvious. Likewise, none of the dependent claims are obvious in light of Fujiyama, Manaka and Whitman.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objections and rejections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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